

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15-18 are currently pending in this application.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolfston, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,155; hereinafter "Wolfston") in view of PR Newswire ("Internetsoccer.Com Expands Localized Services for Global Community," PR Newswire Association, Inc., May 1, 2000). Applicant respectfully traverses the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 1-18 for the following reasons.

Both Wolfston and PR Newswire fail to disclose a system or method that enables athletes to search a database of numerous schools to enable the athletes to match their skills with schools seeking their specific skills. Rather, Wolfston merely discloses displaying information about schools matching search criteria inputted by users. Wolfston makes no mention of matching athletes with schools. Likewise, PR Newswire merely discloses letting "players create comprehensive online profiles, which coaches from thousands of schools can search to find potential players." (PR Newswire ¶ 6). Thus, the PR Newswire system enables coaches from schools to search a database, rather than enabling athletes to match their skills with a database of schools.

In contrast, the present invention recited in claims 1, 3-7, 9-13, and 15-18, for example, comprises a combination of elements, including a system (or method) that enables athletes to search a database of numerous schools to enable the athletes to match their skills with schools seeking their specific skills. As discussed above, neither Wolfston nor PR Newswire, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination, discloses such a system or method.

In light of the above, Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103(a) rejection of the claims.

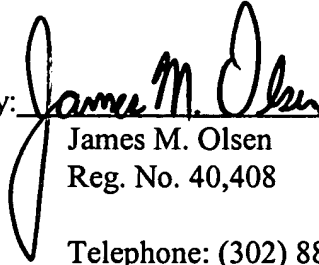
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that the claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-2775. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

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By: 
James M. Olsen
Reg. No. 40,408
Telephone: (302) 888-6256
Facsimile: (302) 255-4256